

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 06422 211 8


No 6354.52



1945-58

GIVEN BY

Boston City Messenger



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2010 with funding from  
Boston Public Library





ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1954.

---

BOSTON, APRIL 15, 1955.

HON. JOHN B. HYNES,  
*Mayor of the City of Boston.*

SIR:

In accordance with the provisions of section 115, chapter 479 of the Acts of 1938, as amended, I submit herewith a brief report of the activities of the Building Department during the year 1954.

CHARLES A. CALLANAN.  
*Building Commissioner.*

•

## Statement of Building Operations in the City of Boston for the Year Ending December 31, 1954.

	1954.		1953.		1952.		1951.		1950.	
	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.
Type I.....	38	\$11,090,161	29	\$9,800,500	71	\$27,428,975	139	\$32,655,390	60	\$19,825,125
Type II.....	12	2,211,000	3	192,000	52	9,466,300	6	2,014,500	8	728,400
Type III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Type IV.....	90	2,250,820	118	3,631,250	116	3,488,045	140	3,494,705	156	3,713,125
Type V.....	44	410,805	49	153,745	51	140,500	48	181,700	60	237,545
Type VI.....	638	5,974,965	429	3,469,880	461	3,633,915	508	9,088,061	376	7,877,785
Total new construction.....	822	\$21,937,751	628	\$17,247,375	751	\$44,157,735	841	\$48,034,336	660	\$32,381,980
Alterations, repairs, etc.....	6,466	9,116,650	5,271	10,526,674	5,772	9,755,517	5,989	12,050,410	5,908	12,524,942
Total structural construction.....	7,288	\$31,054,401	5,899	\$27,774,049	6,523	\$53,913,252	6,830	\$60,084,766	6,568	\$44,906,922
Plumbing.....	2,658	\$2,795,490	2,811	\$3,317,941	2,889	\$3,277,622	2,709	\$4,142,115	3,032	\$3,932,903
Gas fitting.....	6,512	737,476	6,137	791,894	5,690	810,167	4,920	688,485	5,863	728,400
Heaters, ovens, engines, etc.....	348	429,435	417	589,075	238	246,629	385	642,848	327	497,001
Elevators, new freight.....	28	108,919	41	233,168	44	290,155	28	225,063	69	219,412
Elevators, new passenger.....	27	413,926	97	1,568,860	33	541,765	45	876,135	66	1,677,656
Elevators, alterations, freight.....	128	76,534	108	83,599	125	42,411	163	80,887	169	59,677
Elevators, alterations, passenger.....	227	223,193	183	177,016	254	222,507	305	368,440	310	130,241
Signs, projections, etc.....	440	249,325	447	219,749	636	218,404	497	195,420	489	243,639
Fire escapes, etc.....	905	187,830	819	191,716	520	109,211	569	132,558	391	105,515
Take-downs, wood.....	112	93,939	162	75,636	96	55,718	220	75,526	199	94,154
Take-downs, brick, etc.....	57	141,800	101	154,406	341	646,897	176	194,620	120	122,629
Sprinklers.....	96	242,345	178	567,157	172	520,914	105	450,053	115	344,879
Excavations.....	32	52,690	47	27,440	39	57,500	26	25,840	43	148,310
Use of premises.....	74	—	58	—	33	—	61	—	48	—
Totals.....	11,644	\$57,552,902	11,616	\$7,997,657	11,110	\$7,039,900	10,209	\$8,098,620	11,241	\$8,973,954
Grand total all work.....	18,932	\$36,807,303	17,515	\$35,771,706	17,633	\$60,953,152	17,039	\$68,183,386	17,809	\$53,880,876
Department revenue.....	.....	\$118,476.12	.....	\$94,077.25	.....	\$86,957.25	.....	\$72,236.00	.....	\$89,345.00

Boston City Messenger

Mar 16, 1955

## FOREWORD.

---

The Ordinances of 1954, chapter 2, made certain changes in the structure of the Building Department. Briefly, these changes are as follows:

1. A Public Safety Commission was created, consisting of the Director of Administrative Services, the Building Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, and the Chairman of the Boston Traffic Commission, *ex officiis*. The commission was placed in the Building Department, but is not under the jurisdiction of the Building Commissioner. The function of the commission is to "coordinate the work of the Building, Fire, and Health Departments to the end that there may be efficient and concerted action by said departments." (Section 25, Ordinances of 1954, chapter 2.)

2. In the Public Safety Commission there is a committee known as the Committee on Licenses, composed of the Building Commissioner, the Fire Commissioner, and the Chairman of the Boston Traffic Commission, *ex officiis*. The committee, under the terms of the ordinance, shall have the powers and perform the duties formerly exercised by the Board of Street Commissioners under chapter 148, G. L.; chapter 577, Acts of 1913; chapter 488, Acts of 1924, and chapter 349, Acts of 1953, all as amended. (Section 25, Ordinances of 1954, chapter 2.)

3. The Board of Appeal, the Board of Examiners, and the Board of Examiners of Gasfitters were placed in the Building Department but are not under the jurisdiction of the Building Commissioner. (Sections 21, 22, and 24, Ordinances of 1954, chapter 2.)

4. The Electrical Inspection Division of the Fire Department was transferred to the Building Department and the Building Commissioner, by ordinance, became successor to the duties imposed on the Wire Commissioner and the Fire Commissioner with respect to electrical installations in the City of Boston. (Section 20, Ordinances of 1954, chapter 2.)

5. The Street Numbering Section of the Public Works Department was transferred as of January 1, 1955, to the Building Department. (Ordinance 9, 1954.)

A survey, under the auspices of the Director of Administrative Services, resulted in certain changes in department organization, which will be effective on January 1, 1955.

In the interests of efficiency, the department is to be divided then into five major divisions:

1. Office Services Division.
2. Technical Services Division.
3. Construction and Safety Inspections Division.
4. Mechanical Inspections Division.
5. Electrical Inspections Division.



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.

---

The Public Safety Commission came into existence May 1, 1954, in accordance with the Ordinances of 1954, chapter 2, section 25. The commission consists of the Director of Administrative Services, the Building Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, the Fire Commissioner, and the Chairman of the Boston Traffic Commission, ex officiis. The main purpose of this commission is to coordinate the work of the Building, Fire, and Health Departments to the end that there may be efficient and concerted action by said departments.

In accordance with the provisions of the above ordinance, a meeting was held once each month, on the following dates:

May 3, 1954	September 23, 1954
June 1, 1954	October 25, 1954
July 6, 1954	November 23, 1954
August 9, 1954	December 23, 1954

At the first meeting of the commission, Charles J. Fox, Director of Administrative Services, was designated as chairman, and Charles A. Callanan, Building Commissioner, as secretary.

Among the subjects discussed and studied during the past eight months of operations are several matters pertaining to general public safety which are not specified in the ordinance, as written, but it was the opinion of the commission that it was its duty to cover all subjects of this character regardless of the limitations of the ordinance. The limitations of the ordinance presented a situation on several occasions, in view of the fact that the commission is required to meet at least once each month, where it was difficult to compile an agenda of matters to be discussed and, in this connection, a suggestion is offered in the final paragraph of this section for your consideration and attention.

Submitted herewith is a list of the subjects covered during the past eight months, with a brief comment on each subject:

1. COORDINATION OF INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY THE BUILDING, FIRE, AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

A plan was worked out whereby the Building Commissioner is informed of proposed visits at specific locations of fire inspectors and, when necessary, the Building Commissioner notifies the Health Commissioner of health violations. It was found that this was a real improvement over past procedures where fire, building, and health inspectors visited a location at different times during the year, creating ill-will among property owners to the extent that the public, for a long period of time, was under the impression that inspection units connected with the city government were inefficient in their procedures and were created for the sole purpose of being bothersome and troublesome.

Since this new system has been put into effect, relations with the public have been vastly improved, with builders and property owners, generally, realizing the fact that these requirements are an absolute necessity for the safety of themselves and their fellow men in the matter of fire prevention, building construction, and health safeguards.

2. HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTIONS BY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Plans were initiated by the Fire Commissioner for a house to house canvass of all properties throughout the city for possible violations of the fire prevention code but mainly for the purpose of educating the public in fire prevention rules and regulations to the end that fire calls and fatalities in the future would be reduced to a minimum. In this connection, it was possible to coordinate the work of building and health inspectors whenever feasible. The commission believes that this was a worth-while project and, when completed, should indicate favorable results.

3. ORGANIZATION OF A METROPOLITAN SAFETY COMMITTEE.

A Metropolitan Safety Committee was organized with the Boston Health Department joining with 23 cities and towns adjoining Boston to educate the public in accident prevention. Press releases were distributed weekly setting forth precautions and safety devices for various types of accidents, with home accidents being

given the greater emphasis. The commission ascertained that the Kellogg Foundation contributes a certain amount of money to the state each year for home accident prevention and it is the intention of the Metropolitan Safety Committee to seek contributions from this foundation for the expansion and furtherance of its good work.

#### 4. DISPOSAL OF RADIO-ACTIVE SUBSTANCES.

During the past year there has been considerable study made, both nationally and locally, in the proper disposal of radio-active substances. Doctor Cauley, the Health Commissioner, informed the commission in June that no city agency had control over the same although, he pointed out, such substances could pollute streams, rivers or pools for long periods of time. The Health Department now has this subject under study and is following closely the progress being made by the Federal Government and municipal agencies in the solving of the problem.

#### 5. CONTROL OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC.

The commission has under consideration the feasibility of adopting regulations to control pedestrian traffic. The Traffic Commissioner reported that many large cities throughout the country have control over pedestrian traffic and that Boston ranked very low in pedestrian safety programs in comparison to other large cities, especially with reference to jaywalking in the heavily congested traffic areas. This conclusion was arrived at through a report of the National Safety Council's findings made in 1952. However, we are pleased to inform you, in accordance with said Council's findings, that Boston ranked first among the large cities of the country in the installation of street lights, signal lights, pedestrian lights and cross-walks, and ranked second in traffic safety activities and school safety programs.

In order to enforce a real pedestrian safety program, it was the consensus that legislation would be necessary and that the Legislature would not be too willing to cooperate in view of the fact that \$1 or \$2 fines for violations would not set too well with the public. However, a preventive measure of the Traffic Commission worked out fairly well by the installation of

narrow strips of curbing in the center of certain roadways throughout the city. After taking the records of accidents occurring before and after such installations, it was found that where accidents were more or less common prior to installation, they were practically nil subsequent to installation. It was believed advisable to continue this program, wherever possible, until such time as some other means of pedestrian traffic control could be worked out.

#### 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE.

Several discussions were held on the possibility of having either a doctor or interne present at the scene of all accidents where the Fire Department has been called in to revive an individual or individuals overcome by asphyxiation, a heart condition, drownings, or accidents of a similar nature. Although the Fire Department equipment consists of inhalators, resuscitators, oxygen, etc., in which men of the department are thoroughly trained, it was the commission's opinion that a doctor or interne should be present in each instance for obvious reasons. The Fire and Health Commissioners conferred with the Superintendent of Boston City Hospital with a view to initiating some system of notification in cases requiring medical attention and after this conference, both the Fire Commissioner and Health Commissioner agreed that because of the shortage of doctors and internes at the hospital, they should not be required to leave their regular duties for accident cases but that a trained medical aide should be utilized. Some progress has been made in this respect and definite plans will be initiated after the Boston City Hospital Trustees act upon the matter in the very near future.

#### 7. TRAINING OF FIRE RESCUE SQUADS IN ELEVATOR OPERATIONS.

It was brought to the commission's attention that several building owners complained that in the rescuing of individuals trapped in building elevators, great damage was caused to elevators by the utilization of acetylene torches by Fire Department Rescue Squads. The Fire Commissioner agreed to have his rescue men trained in elevator operations in order that unnecessary damage in the future could be eliminated. The Building and

Fire Commissioners cooperated in the training of Fire Department Rescue Squads, so that today excessive damages to elevators during rescue operations are practically nil.

#### 8. NOTIFICATION TO FIRE DEPARTMENT OF CARNIVAL LOCATIONS.

With the thought in mind that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," the Fire Commissioner was desirous of ascertaining when and where carnivals were to be located within the city prior to receipt of their licenses. Emphasis was placed on the fact that the greater portion of these carnivals located in congested areas of the city and the possibilities of great conflagrations were always present. An agreement was reached with the chairman of the Boston Licensing Board to inform the Fire Commissioner of all petitions for carnivals when filed with the Board in order that his department might inspect the premises and location requested before issuance of a license.

#### 9. ALL-NIGHT PARKING ON PUBLIC WAYS.

This was a matter of general discussion on several occasions and a plan is now being considered by the Traffic Commission and the Law Department to legalize all-night parking on alternate sides of the streets in various locations throughout the city. The city has no legal control in the matter at the present time but it is nevertheless hoped that a partial solution to the problem will be worked out in the near future to give the city the legal authority to restrict parking, in certain instances, for the accessibility of fire apparatus in congested sections and at the same time give car owners an opportunity to legally park their cars within the area of their homes.

#### 10. CIVIL DEFENSE OPERATIONS.

As another matter of public safety, the Director of Civil Defense was invited to appear before this Commission and he gave a most interesting discourse on his program. As you are probably more familiar with the operations of civil defense than anyone else in the city, it is not our purpose to go into detail regarding the director's proposals and remarks. However, several of his proposals are being studied for future consideration and attention.

## 11. SLUM CLEARANCE IN THE SO-CALLED "NEW YORK STREETS" AREA.

The cleaning up of the so-called "New York Streets" area has been a problem for a good many years but the condition appeared to get worse instead of better when publicity was given to the proposal of the federal government to include this area in its 'slum clearance program.' Property owners were reluctant to improve their properties and the residents became lax in their everyday living habits, with the result that rubbish, refuse, and an untidy atmosphere generally permeated the area.

The Fire Department, with the aid of welfare workers, the Health Department, and the Building Department went to work in this particular section and, under the circumstances, did an excellent job. Although a 100 per cent clearance was not achieved, nevertheless the area has been under constant surveillance and the condition has been improved considerably. It will be only a matter of a few short months before the federal authorities go into this area to raze buildings and initiate its clearance project. It is hoped that this will solve the problem permanently.

## 12. PARKING FACILITIES AT HOUSING PROJECTS.

The commission's attention was directed to several accidents occurring, two or three of which were fatal, in the area of housing projects and it was determined that this was due primarily to inadequate planning for parking facilities. When public housing originally came into being back in 1938, parking facilities were planned for approximately 7 per cent of the residents but it was noted at a later date that the percentage of car owners in these various projects increased substantially, with the result that all-day and all-night parking in public ways impeded the flow of traffic and increased the hazards to children playing in these areas. The Housing Authority officials were informed of this situation and they agreed to make ample provision in their future plans to provide sufficient parking facilities for residents. As a matter of fact, when the final plans for the Columbia Point project were completed, provisions were made for parking facilities for 71 per cent of the residents and, it has been learned, since the project has been in operation, that even this percentage

is insufficient to cover the needs of the residents. The commission believes, however, that it has accomplished some progress in this connection; at least, it has been assured that plans for future developments would include sufficient parking facilities for car owners.

### 13. INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

The shortage of traffic light facilities throughout the city was brought to the attention of the commission by the Traffic Commissioner and in view of proposed new construction by the School and Fire Departments, it was agreed that some provision should be made for the installation of traffic lights and other safety devices in connection with said construction. It was pointed out that when plans are being prepared for various construction projects, no provision is ever made for traffic lights or safety devices, resulting in a delay of from three to four years after a project has been completed before necessary funds can be secured for said installations. In view of the fact that the School and Fire Departments are contemplating new construction programs for the year 1955 and future years, it was agreed that both departments should be notified to consider these factors when making up their construction programs during the ensuing years and notices to this effect were forwarded as agreed.

### 14. URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAM.

Mr. Kane Simonian, Chief of the Urban Development Division of the Boston Housing Authority, was invited to attend one of the meetings of the commission and he gave a very enlightening and interesting discourse on the subject of the new "Urban Renewal Program." He acquainted the Board with the main features of this program, with which you are quite familiar, and made the suggestion that School Department officials should be contacted to ascertain just where they intended locating new schools in order that a plan could be initiated whereby new school locations, wherever possible, would coincide with areas that could be salvaged in accordance with the Urban Renewal Program. He stressed the fact that if this new program was planned systematically, it would be the means of clearing out many dilapidated areas in the city and substantial savings could be realized.

It was the consensus that a committee to be appointed by the Mayor should wait on the School Department officials in order to secure their cooperation in planning under this program.

15. REVISED CODES OF BUILDING, FIRE AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

At the request of this commission, codes were reviewed and revised for building construction, plumbing, fire prevention; and housing, by the Health Department. Certain provisions of the codes now in use have become more or less obsolete and it was necessary to bring them up to date and at the same time, initiate new codes for various city services.

We believe that this is an accomplishment that should tend to abolish many of the abuses of the past in the functions listed and it is the intention of the commission to continue this work until specific up-to-date codes have been established for every character of work that pertains to public safety.

Reference is again made to paragraph 3 of this report wherein a statement was made to the effect that we experienced some difficulty at times in finding sufficient subjects for discussion and study that would warrant a meeting of this commission once a month as required by the ordinance.

It is the opinion of the commission that quarterly meetings would be sufficient to cover the limited number of subjects which can be classified under public safety measures. In this connection, it is recommended that the Ordinances of 1954, chapter 2, section 25, be amended by deleting the sentence reading, "Said Commission shall meet at least once each month, at the call of the Director of Administrative Services, for the purpose of discharging said duty," and substituting therefor, "Said Commission shall meet at least four times each year at quarterly intervals or at any time in the case of an emergency, at the call of the Director of Administrative Services, for the purpose of discharging said duty."

The requirement for the Fire Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, and the Traffic Commissioner, to travel from their headquarters to City Hall, not taking into consideration the time consumed unnecessarily, in many instances, by the Director of Administrative Services and the Building Commissioner, to attend these



meetings once a month, when need for monthly meetings is questionable, represents a waste of time and effort which could be utilized to better advantage in the administration of their own individual departments.

Your consideration of this recommendation is respectfully requested.

#### COMMITTEE ON LICENSES.

Total number of permits and licenses issued from January 1 to December 31, 1954, by the Permit Division of the Board of Street Commissioners and Committee on Licenses and the revenue received for same:

CLASS.	Number of Permits and Licenses Issued.	Revenue Received.
Garages (total number cars: 963).....	275	\$2,528 00
Inflammables.....	111	3,579 00
Total gallonage: 674,116		
Open-air parking spaces.....	306	24,100 40
	692	\$30,207 40

Number of permits and licenses issued from January 1 to April 30, 1954, by the Permit Division of the Board of Street Commissioners and revenue received for same:

CLASS.	Number of Permits and Licenses Issued.	Revenue Received.
Garages.....	89 (3 No Fee)	\$911 00
Private 78 cars 68 permits \$67		
Lubritoriums 6 cars 4 permits 4		
Repair shops 53 cars 8 permits 40		
Business 63 cars 7 permits 600		
Public 275 cars 2 permits 200		
Total 475 cars 89 permits \$911		
Inflammables.....	42 ( 1 Void ) (1 No Fee)	1,210 00
Total Gallonage: 164,586 gallons		
Open-air parking spaces.....	49 ( 3 Void ) (Samples)	3,883 08
	180	\$6,004 08

Number of permits and licenses issued from May 3 to December 31, 1954, by the Permit Division of the Committee on Licenses and revenue received for same:

CLASS.				Number of Permits and Licenses Issued.	Revenue Received.
Garages.....				186 (3 No Fee) (1 Void ) (1 Sample)	\$1,617 00
Private	186 cars	151 permits	\$153		
Lubritoriums	17 cars	9 permits	9		
Repair shops	34 cars	11 permits	55		
Business	251 cars	15 permits	1,400		
Public	none	none			
Total	488 cars	186 permits	\$1,617		
Inflammables.....				69 (1 Void ) (2 No Fee)	2,369 00
Total Gallonage: 509,530 gallons					
Open-air parking spaces.....				257 (2 Void ) (1 Sample) (1 Torn ) (1 No Fee)	20,217 32
				512	\$24,203 32

### Committee on Licenses:

CHARLES A. CALLANAN, *Chairman*,  
 WILLIAM ARTHUR REILLY, *Traffic Commissioner*,  
 FRANCIS X. COTTER, *Fire Commissioner*.

FRANK J. COUGHLIN,  
*Secretary.*

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES J. FOX, *Chairman*,  
 JOHN H. CAULEY, M.D., *Health Commissioner*,  
 CHARLES A. CALLANAN, *Building Commissioner*,  
 FRANCIS X. COTTER, *Fire Commissioner*,  
 WILLIAM ARTHUR REILLY, *Traffic Commissioner*.

CHARLES A. CALLANAN,  
*Secretary.*

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS AND FEES RECEIVED BY  
THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT—JANUARY 1 TO  
DECEMBER 31, 1954.

	Number	Fees Paid
New construction . . . . .	853	\$35,576 00
Alterations . . . . .	8,209	36,569 00
Elevator, annual tests—minor alterations	1,804	6,241 00
Amendments . . . . .	185	456 00
Sprinklers . . . . .	99	538 00
Night elevator tests . . . . .	30	348 00
Special foundation . . . . .	34	170 00
Board of Appeal . . . . .	257	3,380 00
Boilers, etc. . . . .	351	350 00
Plumbing, old . . . . .	2,073	3,069 00
Plumbing, new . . . . .	58	3,863 00
Plumbing, no fee . . . . .	14	—
Gas fitting, old . . . . .	6,444	6,777 00
Gas fitting, new . . . . .	55	97 00
Gas fitting, no fee . . . . .	25	—
Building law books . . . . .	73	182 50
Petit law books . . . . .	—	146 50
Elevator licenses, new . . . . .	1,792	1,792 00
Elevator licenses, renewal . . . . .	4,595	2,297 50
Elevator licenses, out of town . . . . .	1	50
Elevator licenses, new, no fee . . . . .	18	—
Elevator licenses, renewal, no fee . . . . .	151	—
Elevator licenses, duplicates . . . . .	73	36 50
Master gas fitter licenses, new . . . . .	11	22 00
Master gas fitter licenses, renewal . . . . .	697	1,388 00
Journeyman gas fitter licenses, new . . . . .	32	16 00
Journeyman gas fitter licenses, renewal . . . . .	897	448 50
Permission to inspect plans in vault and certified copies of documents . . . . .	242	802 50
Gasoline licenses . . . . .	18	80 00
Garage licenses . . . . .	182	1,613 00
License for storage of inflammables and explosives . . . . .	73	2,377 00
Open-air parking licenses . . . . .	260	20,277 02
	<u>30,125</u>	<u>\$118,913 62</u>

SUMMARY OF EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTS, 1954.

New buildings . . . . .	5,122
Alterations . . . . .	17,264
Existing buildings . . . . .	230
Boilers, engines, etc. . . . .	22
Plumbing, new . . . . .	1,227
Plumbing, alterations . . . . .	6,390
Plumbing tests . . . . .	441

Gas fitting, new . . . . .	526
Gas fitting, alterations . . . . .	10,268
Gas fitting, tests . . . . .	4,537
Egress . . . . .	41,139
Elevators . . . . .	5,499
Sprinklers . . . . .	4,401
Standpipes . . . . .	142
Tests of both . . . . .	2,801
Zoning . . . . .	3,347
Plans . . . . .	2,290
Special form applications . . . . .	6,200
Fires . . . . .	746
Gas accidents:	
Fatal . . . . .	10
Nonfatal . . . . .	13
Elevator accidents:	
Fatal . . . . .	10
Nonfatal . . . . .	46
Building accidents — special reports . . . . .	4
Complaints made — { Violations . . . . .	1,128
Unsafe Buildings . . . . .	194
Finals . . . . .	2,149
Communications acted on . . . . .	1,202
Special detail — Civil Defense Inspections . . . . .	1,269
Complaints referred to Law Department for action . . . . .	324

## ELECTRICAL INSPECTION DIVISION.

Permits granted to perform electrical work . . .	16,369
Certificates issued to turn on current . . .	13,638
Fees received for electrical permits . . .	\$66,994 62
Interior inspections made . . . . .	30,210
Theaters, amusement places, carnivals, etc., in- spected . . . . .	470
Hospitals, homes, clinics, etc., inspected . . .	570
Complaints received and investigated . . .	500
Grants of location approved . . . . .	142
Streets affected . . . . .	357
Underground service locations approved and referred to Public Works Department . . .	1,099
Plans of underground services loaned to utilities, etc. . . . .	102
Manholes constructed . . . . .	174
Underground services installed . . . . .	1,099
Poles set, new locations . . . . .	200
Poles reset, replaced or straightened . . .	709
Poles removed . . . . .	165
Poles standing in public ways . . . . .	20,918
Notices of overhead construction . . . . .	2,785
Notices of underground construction . . . .	1,010
Reports on overhead construction . . . . .	2,759
Reports on underground construction . . . .	1,160
Accidents investigated . . . . .	141
Notices of street lamp locations received . .	517
Street lamp locations investigated . . . . .	521
Vaults installed in public ways during year .	21
Vaults in public ways, 13,800 volts primary .	225

## FINANCIAL REPORT, 1954 — EXPENDITURES

## 1. PERSONAL SERVICE:

100. Permanent employees . . . . .	\$522,913 69
110. Temporary employees . . . . .	—
120. Overtime . . . . .	2,230 81
	<hr/>
	\$525,144 50

## 2. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

230. Professional and technical services . .	\$121 00
240. Recording and judicial services . . .	42 45
270. Repairs and servicing of equipment . .	274 70
282. Travel expenses — inside the state . .	10,208 76
297. Printing and binding . . . . .	579 35
299. Other contractual services . . . . .	5,369 24
	<hr/>
	\$16,600 00

## 3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS:

300.	Automotive supplies and materials . . .	\$146 13
360.	Office supplies and materials . . .	5,311 16
393.	Other operating supplies and materials . . .	168 12
		<hr/>
		\$5,625 41

## 4. CURRENT CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS:

420.	Dues and subscriptions . . .	\$54 50
430.	Bond and insurance premiums . . .	17 50
440.	Licenses . . . . .	3 00
		<hr/>
		\$75 00

## 5. EQUIPMENT:

560.	Office Equipment . . . . .	\$687 51
593.	Library — books . . . . .	87 92
		<hr/>
		\$775 43

Grand total . . . . .	<hr/> <hr/>	\$548,220 34
-----------------------	-------------	--------------

Appropriation . . . . .	<hr/> <hr/>	\$623,593 00
-------------------------	-------------	--------------

Department income . . . . .	<hr/> <hr/>	\$118,913 62
-----------------------------	-------------	--------------

Unsafe buildings razed by city . . . . .	11	
Unsafe buildings shored by city or otherwise		
secured against trespass . . . . .	9	
Total expenditures for shoring, securing, and		
razing . . . . .		<hr/> <hr/>
		\$8,064 75

## CLASSIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.

Quota.	Title.	Grade.	Compensation.
1	Building Commissioner . . . .	—	\$916 67
1	Deputy Building Commissioner . .	32	141 14
1	Executive Secretary . . . . .	30	532 88
1	Chief of Technical Services . . . .	30	122 50
1	Chief of Construction and Safety Inspections . . . . .	30	122 50
1	Chief of Mechanical Inspections . .	30	122 50
1	Superintendent, Electrical Inspections	30	136 75
1	Technical Assistant to Building Commissioner . . . . .	28	117 75
2	Senior Construction Engineer . . .	28	104 70-116 21
2	Senior Construction Engineer . . .	28	191 75-522 01
2	Head Administrative Clerk . . . .	26	103 50-104 70
1	Zoning Administrator . . . . .	26	117 75
2	Chief Building Inspector . . . . .	24	103 50-108 25
1	Chief Egress Inspector . . . . .	24	108 25
1	Chief Electrical Inspector . . . . .	24	108 25
1	Chief Elevator Inspector . . . . .	24	108 25
1	Chief Gas Fitting Inspector . . . .	24	108 25
1	Chief Plumbing Inspector . . . . .	24	94 00
2	Head Clerk . . . . .	22	90 50-98 75
1	Chief Permit Supervisor . . . . .	20	90 50
2	Legal Assistant . . . . .	20	90 50
3	Senior Egress Inspector . . . . .	20	80 00-83 50
2	Senior Cashier . . . . .	19	87 00
16	Building Inspector . . . . .	19	76 50-87 00
20	Interior Electrical Inspector . . . .	19	80 00-87 00
3	Exterior Electrical Inspector . . . .	19	83 50-87 00
7	Elevator Inspector . . . . .	18	70 50-83 50
6	Gas Fitting Inspector . . . . .	18	73 00-83 50
8	Plumbing Inspector . . . . .	18	76 50-83 50
3	Sprinkler Inspector . . . . .	18	76 50-83 50
1	Welding Inspector . . . . .	18	76 50
14	Egress Inspector . . . . .	17	73 00-76 50
3	Principal Clerk . . . . .	17	80 00
3	Principal Clerk-Stenographer . . . .	17	73 00-80 00
1	Encroachment Investigator . . . . .	15	70 50
9	Senior Clerk-Typist . . . . .	13	63 00
1	Senior Clerk . . . . .	13	65 50
2	Senior Clerk-Stenographer . . . . .	13	67 12-68 00
1	Motor Equipment Operator . . . . .	12	63 00
1	Clerk-Messenger . . . . .	8	50 50
3	Clerk-Typist . . . . .	8	43 36-58 70
1	Clerk . . . . .	—	58 70

## GENERAL STATISTICS, 1954.

On January 1, 1954, there were (estimated) in the City of Boston:

Brick and other fire-resistive build- ings . . . . .	46,253	
Erected during the year . . . . .	184	
	<hr/>	46,437
Taken down during year . . . . .	57	
	<hr/>	
Existing January 1, 1955 . . . . .		46,380
Wood buildings . . . . .	94,843	
Erected during year . . . . .	638	
	<hr/>	95,481
Taken down during year . . . . .	112	
	<hr/>	
Existing January 1, 1955 . . . . .		95,369
		<hr/>
Total number (estimated) of buildings in Boston on January 1, 1955 . . . . .		141,749



## BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF GAS FITTERS

Examinations conducted . . . . .	3
Applicants examined — Master . . . . .	21
Journeyman . . . . .	43
Applicants passed and certified — Master . . . . .	11
Journeyman . . . . .	21

## BOARD OF APPEAL.

The Board of Appeal, established in accordance with section 117 of chapter 479, Acts of 1938, as amended, in its functioning, may vary the provisions of the Act referred to in specific cases which appear to them not to have been contemplated by this Act although covered by it, or in cases where manifest injustice is done, provided that the decision of the Board in such a case shall have the assent of four members under Building Law and shall be unanimous under Zoning Law and shall not conflict with the spirit of any provision of the Act.

The following is a statistical summary of the work of this department for the year 1954.

In *re* Building Law — chapter 479, Acts of 1938, as amended:

Appeals received . . . . .	97
Appeals withdrawn . . . . .	1
Appeals pending . . . . .	5
Appeals sustained . . . . .	16
Appeals sustained with proviso . . . . .	63
Appeals dismissed . . . . .	17
	—
Total . . . . .	*102

In *re* Zoning Law — chapter 488, Acts of 1924, as amended:

Appeals received . . . . .	175
Appeals withdrawn . . . . .	10
Appeals pending . . . . .	23
Appeals sustained . . . . .	33
Appeals sustained with proviso . . . . .	84
Appeals dismissed . . . . .	36
	—
Total . . . . .	†186

---

\* Includes decisions on 5 cases pending from 1953.

† Includes decisions on 11 cases pending from 1953.

## BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

The Board of Examiners was created by city ordinance in 1913 and re-established under legislative act in 1938. It acts upon applications of persons desiring to be licensed in Boston as construction superintendents, approving or rejecting said applications under certain rules and regulations adopted as procedure by the Board. The members are appointed by the Mayor and consist of an architect or engineer, a contractor or mechanic, and a lawyer.

The following list is that of applications acted upon in 1954:

	Approved	Rejected	Suspended
New licenses and reissues . . . . .	492	149	—
Renewals . . . . .	1,947	—	—
Suspended . . . . .	—	—	2
	<hr/> 2,439	<hr/> 149	<hr/> 2

Fees collected amounted to \$6,354.











